

PREFACE.

A PUBLICATION on the Politics of Lower Canada, at the present crisis of affairs, requires little apology to those who feel an interest in the peace and welfare of that extensive Colony. Nothing, in fact, of a connected description, has hitherto appeared on the subject; and it therefore seems only incumbent upon the Writer to state, with candour, the circumstances and motives which have led him to the present undertaking, and to lay before his intelligent readers his humble opinion, as to the means of redressing those grievances of His Majesty's Subjects of British descent, which his experience of them, during a residence of twenty-five years, has *brought home to his business and bosom*.

When the increasing differences between the branches of the Legislature of Lower Canada, on various subjects, and between that Province and Upper Canada, on the division of the produce of the Custom Duties levied at Quebec, induced His Majesty's Ministers, in the year 1822, to attempt a Union of both Provinces under one Legislature, the Bill which they introduced for that purpose, into the Imperial Parliament, became an object of curiosity with speculative politicians in Great Britain, and a subject of warm discussion among the interested, in the Canadas. The principal modifications of the Constitutional Act, 31, Geo. III., Cap. 51, which the Bill contained, had reference to the political situation of Lower Canada; *and their salutary object was not well understood, by persons who had not long resided in that Province*.

The Writer of the following sheets, being a warm partisan of the Union, had occasion to explain to distant correspondents, the expediency of the proposed modifi-